

Application No.: 09/631,898  
Amendment dated: April 26, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2005  
Attorney Docket No.: 0016.0003us1

a.) Amendments to Specification

*Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:*

--With advances in integrated circuit, microprocessor, networking and communication technologies, increasing ~~number~~ numbers of devices, in particular, digital computing devices, are being networked together. Devices are often first coupled to a local area network, such as an Ethernet based office/home network. In turn the local area networks are interconnected together through wide area networks, such as ATM networks, Frame Relays, and the like. Of particular ~~notoriety~~ note is the TCP/IP based global inter-networks, Internet.--

*Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 17, in the specification as originally filed, with the following rewritten paragraph:*

As a result this trend of increased connectivity, increasing ~~number~~ numbers of applications that are network dependent are being deployed. Examples of these network dependent applications include but are not limited to, email, net-based telephony, world wide web and various types of e-commerce. For these applications, success inherently means high volume of desirable network traffic for their implementing servers. To ensure continuing success, quality of service through orderly and efficient handling of the large volume of network traffic has become of paramount importance. Various subject matters, such as scalability, distributive deployment and caching of contents as well as regulating network traffic destined for a network node have become of great interest to the artesian.--